REMARKS

The specification has been reviewed, and clerical errors of the specification have been amended.

On page 2 of the Action, claims 1-3, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Galser. On page 3 of the Action, claims 1, 2 and 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takano et al. in view of Galser.

In view of the rejections, claim 3 has been canceled, and the subject matter of canceled claim 3 has been incorporated into claim 1 together with other limitation. Claim 5 has been editorially amended. Also, new claims 7 and 8 have been filed.

Claim 1 now amended is patentable over the cited references, as explained below.

A cup seal of claim 1 is designed to be received in a concavity for allowing a slidable member to pass therethrough. The cup seal comprises an annular base portion extending radially, an annular inner lip extending axially from an inner peripheral side end of the base portion such that the slidable member is slidably inserted through the annular inner lip, and an annular outer lip extending axially from an outer peripheral side end of the base portion to contact with a bottom wall of said concavity such that the outer lip can be spaced apart from the bottom wall. The cup seal has a laterally-facing U-shaped section.

The base portion includes base side fluid passage grooves extending radially to allow communication between an outer peripheral side and an inner peripheral side of said base portion. Further, the inner lip includes lip side fluid passage grooves extending radially to completely penetrate therethrough to open at a front end of said inner lip.

Since the base side fluid passage grooves and the lip side fluid passage grooves are formed, the flow of brake fluid through

the first sealing member is ensured, as explained from page 17, line 23 to page 18, line 10 of the specification.

In the Action, it was held that "Galser discloses a master cylinder comprising a piston (52)… wherein the seal includes base side fluid passage grooves (126) formed in the base portion… and radially extending lip side grooves (132)…."

However, it is held at column 3, lines 40-45 of Galser that "A groove 132 on the peripheral surface 134 of leg 122 connects the radial grooves 126 with a series of fluted grooves 136 on the end of the cylindrical surface 130 to define a positive flow path between compartment 44 into chamber 56 to maintain the fluid therein in completely filled condition." (emphasis added)

The groove 132 referred to as the lip side groove is formed on the peripheral surface 134 of the leg 122 to connect the radial grooves 126 with the fluted groove 136. In the invention, the lip side fluid passage grooves completely penetrate through the inner lip. The structure and function of the lip side fluid passage grooves of the invention are entirely different from those of Galser.

On page 3 of the Action, claim 3 including the lip side fluid passage grooves was not rejected by Takano and Galser, which means that the lip side fluid passage grooves now clearly recited in claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in Takano and Galser.

Actually, a cup seal 46 of Takano has the inner lip and outer lip, as in the invention. However, Takano does not have base side fluid passage grooves and lip side fluid passage grooves. Galser does not have the lip side fluid passage grooves, as explained before. Therefore, claim 1 now amended is not obvious from Takano and Galser.

As explained above, claim 1 is patentable over Takano and Galser.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

By 

Manabu Kanesaka
Reg. No. 31,467
Agent for Applicants

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 519-9785